

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-23, 25-29, 31-34, and 36-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 24, 25, 30 and 35 have been canceled. Claims 1, 13, 19, 29, and 34 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 13-18 are allowed and that claims 3-5, 9, 20, 21, 25, 30 and 35 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have accepted the Examiner's determination of allowability by adding the indicated allowable features to each of the independent claims.

Specifically, the allowable features of claim 3 have been added to claim 1; the allowable features of claim 25 and intervening claim 24 have been added to claim 19; the allowable features of claim 30 have been added to claim 29; and lastly the allowable features of claim 35 have been added to claim 34. Thus, all of the independent claims are clearly in condition for allowance and the respective dependent claims are considered allowable at least due to the dependency upon the respective independent claims from which they depend. Therefore, Applicants earnestly solicit an early indication of allowability in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 10-12, 19-22, 23, 26-29, 31-34 and 36-39 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu (USP 5,914,798). Furthermore, claims 8 and 24 are rejected

under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Doverspike (USP 6,097,696). These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, allowable subject matter has been added to each of the independent claims clearly rendering these rejections moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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